

- "I. Claims 1-14, drawn to game system with audio display and separate wager and prize unit, classified in class 463, subclass 25.
- II. Claims 15-26, drawn to game system with build in (sic) database to track user's account and serially connected displays, classified in class 463, subclass 46.
- III. Claims 27-32 drawn to displays arrangement classified in class D14, subclass 373."

As explained in MPEP § 803, "an application may properly be required to be restricted to one of two or more claimed inventions only if they are independent (MPEP § 806.04-§ 806.04(i)) or distinct (MPEP § 806.05-806.05(i))." A generic claim which may support a restriction of a genus/species set of claims is defined within MPEP § 806.04(d). Within this section of the MPEP, it is noted that "the generic claim cannot include limitations not present in each of the added species claims. Otherwise stated, the claims to the species which can be included in the case in addition to a single species must contain all of the limitations of the generic claim."

The Applicant maintains that the above three groups are one invention recited within various embodiments. The Applicants maintain that the groups of claims all possess multiple displays and have components for wagering and awarding prizes. Claim 1-14 and claim 15-26 expressly recite limitations to a "wager and prize unit" and a "computer controlled distributor for paying or crediting winnings" in addition to reciting limitations to a plurality of display devices. Claims 27-32 also recite limitations regarding multiple display devices.

More significantly, the Applicant is particularly confused by the Examiner's characterization of Claims 15-26 as none of these claims recite limitations relating to a "database to track user's accounts." While claims to such an invention may be properly restricted from the claims in the instant application, the claims the Examiner is characterizing are not in the instant application.

Finally, the Applicant respectfully maintains that the Examiner will be required to search the same areas for all three groups of claims, as recited in the application in order to adequately

determine the patentability of the claims recited herein. As such, no additional effort would be required to examine all of these claims in the present application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above arguments, it is submitted that the Election/Restriction requirement contained within Official Communications dated June 19, 2001 is improper. The Applicant respectfully requests that the instant requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully Submitted,

STEPHAN

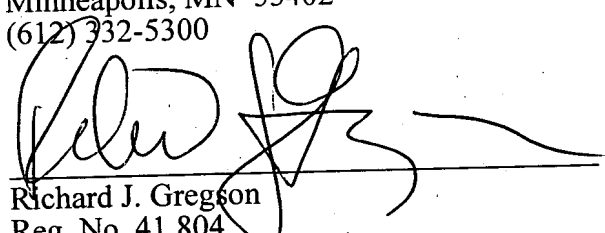
By his attorneys,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 7777-
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 332-5300

Date:

15 Aug 2007

By


Richard J. Gregson
Reg. No. 41,804